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Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT PAGE A-3 SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, HEADED "HUNTED TERRORIST REPORTED IN YUGOSLAVIA."

2. WASHINGTON, SEPT. 16 -- AMERICAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST KNOWN AS CARLOS WAS IN YUGOSLAV LAST WEEK AND THAT THE YUGOSLAVS KNEW IT BUT MADE NO ATTEMP TO CAPTURE HIM.

3. ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BOTH THE UNITED STAT AND WEST GERMANY ALERTED THE YUGOSLAVS TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE TERRORIST, A 27-YEAR -OLD VENEZUELAN WHOSE REAL NAME IS ILLICH RAMIREZ SANCHEZ. THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN BELGRADE HAD CONVEYED UNITED STATES DIS-APPOINTMENT "THAT YUGOSLAVIA DID NOT MAKE EFFORTS TO AP-PREHEND CARLOS."
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4. THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT DENIED THAT IT HAD KNOWN THAT CARLOS WAS IN THE COUNTRY LAST WEEK. A SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE THAT HE KNEW NO AMERICAN PROTEST.
5. THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY HAD SHOWN INTEREST IN THE MATTER AND HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. CARLOS, WHO HAS BEEN SOUGHT IN 12 COUNTRIES, IS BELIEVE TO HAVE LED THE KIDNAPPING OF OIL MINISTERS ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM-EXPORTING COUNTRIE IN VIENNA LAST DECEMBER. HE IS ALSO BELIEVED TO HAVE ORGANIZED THE HIJACKING OF A FRENCH AIRLINER TO UGANDA IN JUNE THAT ENDED WITH THE ISRAELI RESCUE OF HOSTAGES FROM THE AIRPORT OF ENTEBBE.

7. A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID WEST GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES HAD INFORMED BELGRADE ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE TERRORIST IN YUGOSLAVIA "AT THE BEGINNING OF LAST WEEK."

8. "WE BELIEVED THE INFORMATION WAS HIGHLY RELIABLE," MR. BROWN REMARKED.

9. ASKED WHETHER THE YUGOSLAVS HAD RESPONDED, MR. BROWN REPLIED, "THEY SAID THEY HAD NO INFORMATION TO INDICATE THAT CARLOS HAD BEEN IN YOGOSLAVIA."

10. CONTINUATION ARTICLE BY MALCOLM W. BROWNE, DATELINED BELGRADE, HEADED "ARRIVAL BY AIR REPORTED OBSERVED."

11. BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA, SEPT. 16--WESTERN SOURCES HERE REPORTED TODAY THAT CARLOS ARRIVED IN BELGRADE ON SEPT. 6 ON A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT FROM ALGIERS WITH FIVE ACCOMPLICES, TWO OF THEM WEST GERMANS.

12. CARLOS WAS REPORTEDLY OBSERVED AT BELGRADE AIRPORT BY BOTH WEST GERMAN AND YUGOSLAV POLICE AGENTS. WHEN WEST GERMAN DIPLOMATS ASKED THE YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTRY TO ARREST THE TERRORIST AND HIS COLLEAGUES, THE YUGOSLAVS
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WERE SAID TO HAVE REPLIED THAT THEY WERE UNDER "CLOSE SURVEILLANCE."

13. BUT AFTER FOUR DAYS, CARLOS AND HIS ASSOCIATES REPORTEDLY LEFT ON A FLIGHT TO IRAQ. WEST GERMAN AND YUGOSLAV AGENTS WERE AGAIN ON HAND AT THE AIRPORT.

14. DURING CARLOS'S STAY IN BELGRADE, SEVERAL EMBASSIES

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WERE ON ALERT BECAUSE OF FEARS THAT THE TERRORISTS HAD COME AS AN ASSASSINATION TEAM.

15. AMERICAN INTEREST IN THE INCIDENT HAS BEEN STRONG NOT ONLY BECAUSE CARLOS IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS T E MOST

DANGEROUS TERRORIST, BUT BECAUSE OF ANOTHER DISPUTE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BELGRADE.

16. SINCE THE HIJACKING BY CROATIAN SEPARATISTS OF AN AMERICAN AIRLINER LAST FRIDAY, YUGOSLAVIA HAS BEEN ACCUSING WASHINGTON OF PURSUING A POLICY OF HARBORING CRITICS OF PRESIDENT TITO'S GOVERNMENT.

17. STATEMENTS BY AMERICAN AND YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS ON THE CARLOS CASE HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY CONTRADICTORY. A YUGOSLAV SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY:

18. "YUGOSLAV SECURITY AUTHORITIES AND THE YUGOSLAV SECTION OF INTERPOL, DESPITE CAREFUL CHECKS, HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED THE PRESENCE OF THOSE PERSONS IN YUGOSLAVIA." ROBINSON

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